

Skills for
Living
pg.2

Busy
Week
pg.3

The Voice

Edited by: August Thronson

December 17, 2010

Alguna High School Tis the season

Abby Foertsch

With Christmas right around the corner, many are excited for a break and to rip off the wrapping paper of those presents waiting under the tree. So what are the hot items this year that teens are asking for?

Some of the most popular items this year are a 360 Degree camera, *Call of Duty: Black Ops*, Kinect, Nose Shower Gel Dispenser, design your own shoes, and Nike athletic shoulder bag.

Instead of receiving gifts, are you wondering what you can buy for others? Good ideas to get for your friends would be gourmet coffees with a personal cup, journals, a deck of cards,

collage of special photos, gel pens and stationary, and homemade food included with recipes. For more ideas check out <http://www.betterbudgeting.com/articles/money/63giftsunder10dollars.htm>.

Christmas break this year is eleven days long. What will you be doing with your free time? Carly Sansone said, "I'm spending time with my grandma and other relatives." Ryan McMahon said, "I'm going to work a lot and make major bank." Brittany Vaske said, "I'm going to Arizona to visit family and take a vacation."

This is a wonderful

time of year to spend with your family and to get a nice break from school. You also get to spend this time listening to Christmas music, and looking at Christmas lights. It's time to get in the holiday spirit.

Christmas giving

Brandee Hockett

Christmas shopping time is almost over. It is known as one of those things that give you a headache. Christmas shopping is a perfect time to show your love to others. Christmas is a time to give presents and make people happy.

It's also a perfect time to donate to the people in need. The people in need are trying to buy their kids something special to make their holiday a great one. There are lots of places to stop in and donate some

clothes, especially hats, mittens, and coats.

People at the Far Northern Regional Center provide help and care for people with developmental disabilities. This is a place to donate presents for people who would otherwise get nothing for Christmas. They started this Christmas program 10 years ago.

The Redding-based Center will take donations such as cash. This money will go to help get wrapping paper and deliver the gifts to



the needy who were referred by some of their caseworkers. If you would want to get gifts for a family or person yourself, they suggest you call or come in and they will

help you get a family. The number to get ahold of the Far Northern Regional Center is (530) 221-9524.

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One down, one to go!

Brittany Vaske

It's that time of year again! December 20, 21, and 22 will be a stressful time for the students and staff at AHS as it is the week of semester tests. Some students will be taking a book test while others will be listening to different presentations. Either way, students are required to be at their test site for at least an hour.

Study halls and open

campus times obviously do not have tests, therefore students are not required to be at AHS during these times.

Each testing period will last an hour and a half, but students are expected to stay for one full hour, regardless if they have finished their test ahead of time.



Monday <u>Dec. 20</u>	Tuesday <u>Dec. 21</u>	Wednesday <u>Dec. 22</u>
Period 1 8:30-10:00	Period 4 8:30-10:00	Period 8 8:30-10:00
Period 2 10:15-11:45	Period 5/6 10:15-11:45	Period 9 10:15-11:45
Period 3 1:00-2:30	Period 7 1:00-2:30	Make-up 1:00-2:30



Sierra Wegener

Bjustrom

The AHS girls' golf coach and one of the P.E. and fitness teacher is commonly known as Dawn Bjustrom or just Dawn.

Dawn went to Iowa State University to play golf and be an accountant. Later on her golf coach persuaded her to become a teacher. She went to Iowa State for 4 years and later on she got her master's degree from Southwestern Minnesota State University.

Dawn chose P.E. and fitness because she believes

you should do something that is important to you and health and fitness is really important to her.

Dawn started teaching as a substitute teacher for 6 years and has been teaching full time at Algona High School since, which has been 20 years.

Dawn may not look like it, but she really is 50 years old. Dawn says "You are only as old as you feel."

Food classes

Katie Green

On Monday, December 6th, Mrs. Bormann's Skills for Living class invited adults in the building to attend a prepared meal. Each cooking group was assigned to create an appealing meal using good esthetics. Then they were to choose an adult in the building to enjoy their meal. The class did this project to wrap up their cooking unit. Richie Baxter said, "I love cooking with Mrs. Bormann!"

Mrs. Bormann's Food and Nutrition II class also created a meal on Monday, December 13, 2010. The students prepared a full course meal for the school board members. The class

had to create a meal using good esthetics. Mr. Cecil, who attended the meal, said, "It was incredible. The students who put it on did an amazing job!"

Good esthetics of a meal include: color, texture, shape, and flavor. Having good color means having a variety of colors on the plate and not too much of the same color. To have good texture you need to make sure you have a balance of hot and cold foods, while also having a variety of shapes on the plate to make the meal more appealing. Combining all these techniques with a variety of flavors makes for a very delicious meal.

Sports/Editorial

3

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Busy week

Connor Barber

The girls and boys basketball teams played on December 7th against Clarion-Goldfield, the 9th against Iowa Falls-Alden, and the 10th against Webster City. The girls came out on top, winning all three. The boys beat Clarion-Goldfield and fought hard but lost the other two.

Senior, Brittany Vaske, said, "I'm happy with the way we fought and took the wins." The girls' scores were 48-46, 36-20, and 56-20. Laura TerHerk led the Clarion game with 26 points, while Jade Simpson was second with 13. Against Webster City every girl got to play, which gave the team good experience. Megan Gerhardt and Laura TerHark

Burlesque

Macie Foster

The movie *Burlesque* took \$55 million dollars to make and it got a CinemaScore that was an A-. This musical romance is one of the most expensive movies to date from Sony Screen Gems.

The *Burlesque* lounge has its best days behind it. Tess (Cher), a retired dancer and owner of the venue, struggles to keep the aging theater alive, facing all kinds of financial and artistic challenges. The lounge's troupe members were becoming very distracted with personal problems and a threat coming from a wealthy businessman's quest to buy



Photo by Jim Gale

led the team in points with 12.

Senior, Ryan McMahon, said, "We played hard and tried our best." Ryan led the team in points against Clarion with 20 and Michael McMahon followed with 15. Against Webster City Noah Hollinger led with 12 points. The team worked hard came up short.

The next boys and girls game is tonight against St. Eds. Come cheer on the team.

the spot from Tess.

Meanwhile, Ali (Christina Aguilera), a small-town girl from Iowa, is about to have a dramatic life change. Tess originally hired her as a waitress at the lounge, but Ali soon falls in love with the art of burlesque. Ali fulfills her dreams of being on stage herself. Things take a dramatic change though when Ali's big voice makes her become the main attraction.

"There was a lot of amazing dancing!" quoted Shannon Koestler.

Information from <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1126591/maindetails>

Bowl game season

Richie Baxter

New Mexico Bowl-BYU(6-6) vs. UTEP (6-6)
Humanitarian Bowl - Fresno State (8-4) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3)
New Orleans Bowl - Troy (7-5) vs. Ohio (8-4)
St. Petersburg Bowl - Louisville (6-6) vs. Southern Miss (8-4)
MAACO Bowl Las Vegas- Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1)
Poinsettia Bowl - San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3)
Hawaii Bowl - Tulsa (9-3) vs. Hawaii (9-3)
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl - Toldedo (8-4) vs. FIU (6-6)
Independence Bowl - Air Force (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (6-6)
Champs Sports Bowl - West Virginia (9-3) vs. N.C. State (8-4)
Insight Bowl - Iowa (7-5) vs. Missouri (10-2)
Military Bowl- Maryland (8-4) vs. East Carolina (6-6)
Texas Bowl - Illinois (6-6) vs. Baylor (7-5)
Alamo Bowl - Oklahoma State (10-2) vs. Arizona (7-5)
Armed Forces Bowl - SMU (7-6) vs. Army (6-5)
Pinstripe Bowl - Syracuse (7-5) vs. Kansas State (7-5)
Music City Bowl - North Carolina (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6)
Holiday Bowl - Nebraska (10-3) vs. Washington (6-6)
Meineke Car Care- USF (7-5) vs. Clemson (6-6)
Sun Bowl - Miami (7-5) vs. Notre Dame (7-5)
Liberty Bowl - Georgia (6-6) vs. UCF (10-3)
Chick-fil-A Bowl- Florida State (9-4) vs. South Carolina (9-4)
TicketCity Bowl - Northwestern (7-5) vs. Texas Tech (7-5)
Outback Bowl - Florida (7-5) vs. Penn State (7-5)
Capital One Bowl - Michigan State (11-1) vs. Alabama (9-3)
Gator Bowl - Michigan (7-5) vs. Mississippi State (8-4)
Rose Bowl - Wisconsin (11-1) vs. TCU (12-0)
Fiesta Bowl - Connecticut (8-4) vs. Oklahoma (11-2)
Orange Bowl - Standford (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2)
Sugar Bowl - Arkansas (10-2) vs. Ohio State (11-1)
GoDaddy.com- Middle Tennessee (6-6) vs. Miami, Ohio (9-4)
Cotton- LSU (10-2) vs. Texas A&M (9-3)
BBVA Compass- Pittsburgh (7-5) vs. Kentucky (6-6)
Kraft Fight Hunger- Nevada (12-1) vs. Boston College (7-5)
BCS National Championship- Auburn (13-0) vs. Oregon (12-0)



A sad end to a wonderful woman

Courtney Pityer

On December 7, 2010, Elizabeth Edwards died. She died from breast cancer which had affected her since late 2004. The day before she died it was announced that the cancer had spread and treatment would not be productive. She died at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, surrounded by her friends and family. She was 61 years old.

During her childhood, she grew up in a military family. Her father was a United States Navy pilot who was transferred from one military base to another during most of her childhood and her adolescence. She revealed in her book *Saving Graces* that one of the most difficult times of moving was during her senior year of high school. She graduated from Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria.

After high school she attended Mary Washington College in Fredricksburg, Virginia. She later transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her bachelor's

degree. Later on she entered the law program.

During the time she was studying law, she met John Edwards who was also studying law at the time. They were married on July 30th, 1977, and had four children. There were two topics that she and her husband argued over a lot: gay marriage and the war in Iraq.

In early 2010 it was announced that Elizabeth had separated from John after finding out about his affair with Rielle Hunter. She was intending to have a one year separation from him before filing for divorce.

Funeral services for Elizabeth Edwards were held at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh, which was open to the public and over 1,200 people attended. She was buried in Historic Oakwood Cemetery next to her son Wade who died in 1996.

This is a wonderful and fascinating woman who will surely be missed.

Getting out early

Carly Sansone

Some seniors and juniors from Algona High School are ready to graduate early and leave for college. No matter what their reasons are, they have to have enough credits to graduate and, also, be prepared.

There are good and bad reasons to graduate early from high school. Some good reasons include: to get an early start on college, get a full time job, and to get out of a small town. "I can't wait to start school early and get out of this small town!" stated Ashley Norland. But there are downsides to graduating early.

Some bad reasons include: no more academics, leaving friends behind, no more school activities (as in prom, superstars, etc.), and it can be stressful trying to finish high school early.

Credits are a very important part in graduating early. Students have to have four years of English, four years of social studies, three

years of science, and three years of math.

With the English credit, a semester of a literature class must be taken, a semester of writing, and a year of both English 9 and 10. With social studies, a semester of a world class must be taken and a year of U.S. history and government. With science, a year of Earth science and biology must be taken and passed. With math, students must take a year of geometry and Algebra II.

As students prepare for graduating, they must talk to their teachers in advance, asking what work they have to do before they're done. Obviously students have to be prepared by getting all their credits done and they must talk to Mrs. Stein in advance.

As of right now, seven seniors are graduating at semester and four juniors are graduating at the end of this year. Good luck to all of them!

Plan test

Courtney Schneider

On December 8th, the sophomores took the Plan Test. The Plan test is a practice ACT. It includes tests in English, reading, math, and science. It lasts around two hours.

The Plan test gives students an estimated ACT

score. The results will come sometime in February. A few sophomores thought that the Plan test was pointless and not worth it and a few said that it will help them when it comes time to take the ACT.

